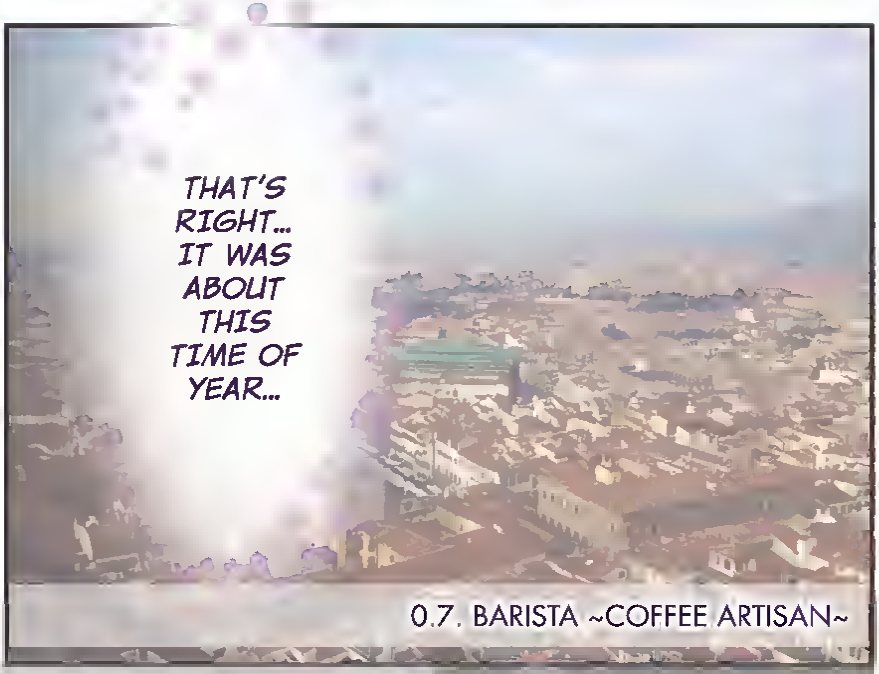
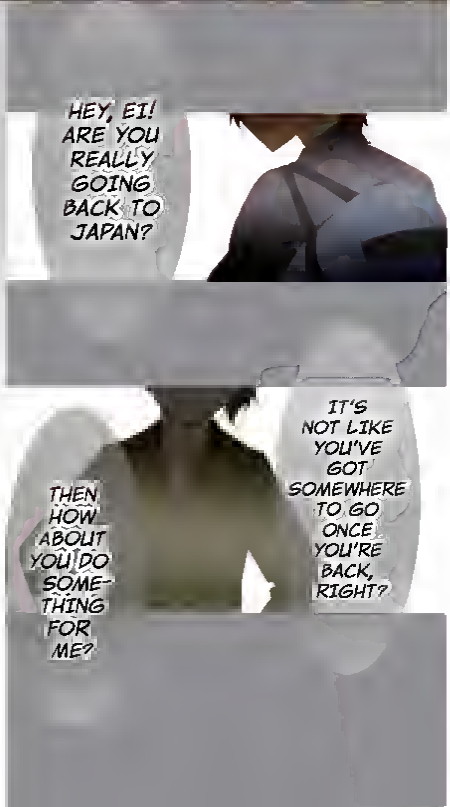
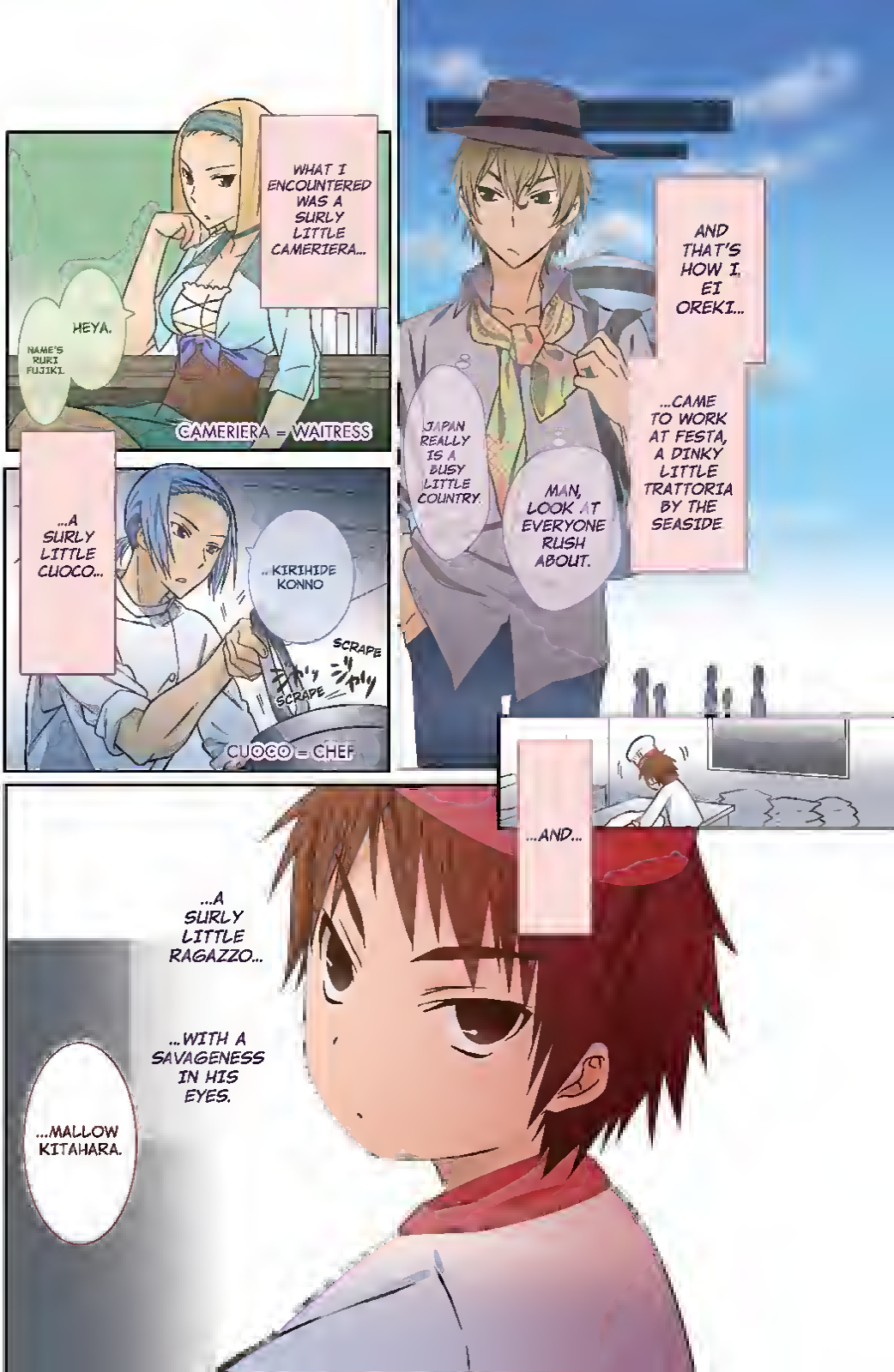
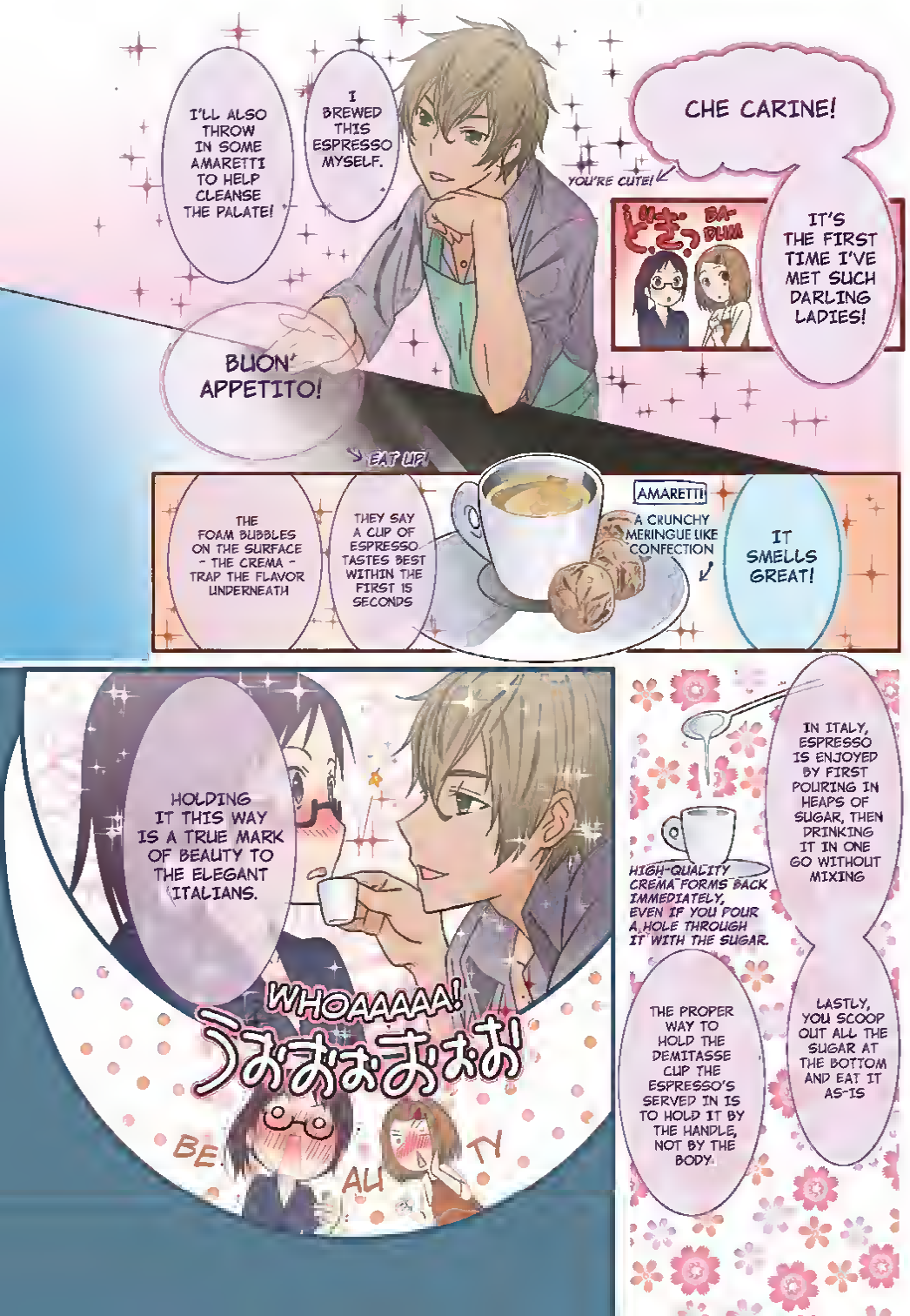

THAT'S RIGHT... IT WAS ABOUT THIS TIME OF YEAR...
0.7. BARISTA ~COFFEE ARTISAN~

CAN I ENTRUST YOU WITH MY RESTAURANT... AND MY PRECIOUS SON?

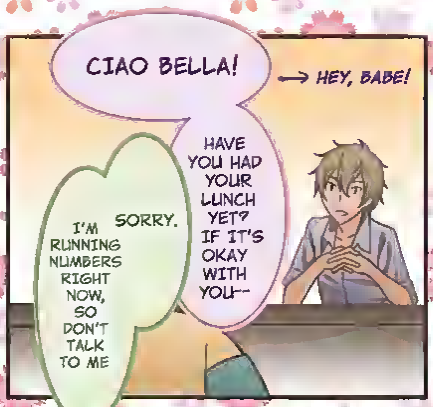

HEY, EI! ARE YOU REALLY GOING BACK TO JAPAN?
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'VE GOT SOMEWHERE TO GO ONCE YOU'RE BACK, RIGHT?
THEN HOW ABOUT YOU DO SOME-THING FOR ME?

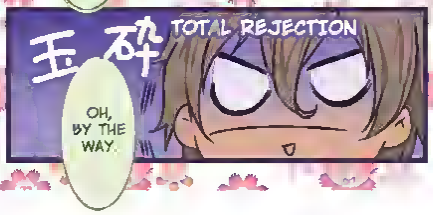

AND THAT'S HOW I, EI OREKI...
...CAME TO WORK AT FESTA, A DINKY LITTLE TRATTORIA BY THE SEASIDE
MAN, LOOK AT EVERYONE RUSH ABOUT.
JAPAN REALLY IS A BUSY LITTLE COUNTRY.
...AND...
WHAT I ENCOUNTERED WAS A SURLY LITTLE CAMERIERA...
HEYA.
NAME'S RURI FUJIKI.
CAMERIERA = WAITRESS
...A SURLY LITTLE CUOCO...
..KIRIHIDE KONNO
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
CUOCO = CHEF
...A SURLY LITTLE RAGAZZO...
...WITH A SAVAGENESS IN HIS EYES.
...MALLOW KITAHARA.

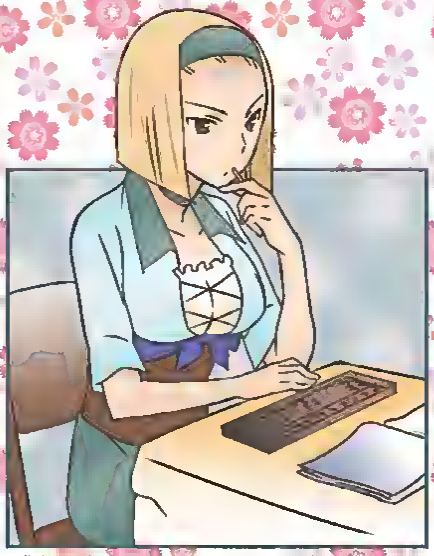

I'LL ALSO THROW IN SOME AMARETTI TO HELP CLEANSE THE PALATE!
I BREWED THIS ESPRESSO MYSELF.
BUON' APPETITO!
CHE CARINE!
YOU'RE CUTE!
どきっ
BA-DUM
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE MET SUCH DARLING LADIES!
EAT UP!
THE FOAM BUBBLES ON THE SURFACE - THE CREMA - TRAP THE FLAVOR UNDERNEATH
THEY SAY A CUP OF ESPRESSO TASTES BEST WITHIN THE FIRST 15 SECONDS
AMARETTI
A CRUNCHY MERINGUE LIKE CONFECTION
IT SMELLS GREAT!
HOLDING IT THIS WAY IS A TRUE MARK OF BEAUTY TO THE ELEGANT ITALIANS.
WHOAAAA!
うおおおお
BE
AU
TY
HIGH-QUALITY CREMA FORMS BACK IMMEDIATELY, EVEN IF YOU POUR A HOLE THROUGH IT WITH THE SUGAR.
IN ITALY, ESPRESSO IS ENJOYED BY FIRST POURING IN HEAPS OF SUGAR, THEN DRINKING IT IN ONE GO WITHOUT MIXING
THE PROPER WAY TO HOLD THE DEMITASSE CUP THE ESPRESSO'S SERVED IN IS TO HOLD IT BY THE HANDLE, NOT BY THE BODY.
LASTLY, YOU SCOOP OUT ALL THE SUGAR AT THE BOTTOM AND EAT IT AS-IS

I LEARNED CUSTOMER SERVICE IN ITALY, SO THE WORK ITSELF WAS EASY.
KCHAK
MY FELLOW EMPLOYEES, THOUGH, WERE SOMETHING ELSE..
AND SUDDENLY A NAKED GUY!
WHAT IS IT?
YOUR ROOM'S IMMEDIATELY LEFT OF THE ENTRANCE HALL
WHY THE HELL IS THIS GUY TAKING A MID-DAY BATH?!
YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF YOUR OWN LAUNDRY AND ROOM UPKEEP.
WE TAKE TURNS TIDYING UP THE SHARED QUARTERS
I SEE.
...NO, NOT REALLY.
I COOK DINNER FOR EVERYONE MOST OF THE TIME, BUT BREAKFAST AND LUNCH?
YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN.
YOU CAN USE THE INGREDIENTS IN THE KITCHEN, AS LONG AS THEY AREN'T THE HIGH-END STUFF
...CAN YOU COOK?
AHH, MY LITTLE PEPERON! SO SORRY TO MAKE YOU WAIT! I'M ALL SQUEAKY CLEAN FOR YOU! SO MAY I GRILL THAT LOVELY SKIN OF YOURS?
...
YOU'RE COMING WITH US
WE WAKE UP AT 6 A.M EVERY OTHER DAY TO STOCK UP AT TSUKIJI.
LUNCH STARTS AT 11 A.M., LAST ORDER'S AT 2 P.M., DINNER STARTS AT 5 P.M., LAST ORDER'S AT 10 P.M., MONDAYS ARE OFF.

PEPERON = CHILI PEPPER


CIAO BELLA!
HEY, BABE!
HAVE YOU HAD YOUR LUNCH YET? IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU--
I'M SORRY. RUNNING NUMBERS RIGHT NOW, SO DON'T TALK TO ME


玉砕
TOTAL REJECTION
OH, BY THE WAY.



SHEESH.
THESE GUYS ARE "SOMETHING," ALL RIGHT.
ずど
SLURRRP
JAPAN'S INSTANT RAMEN TASTES GREAT.

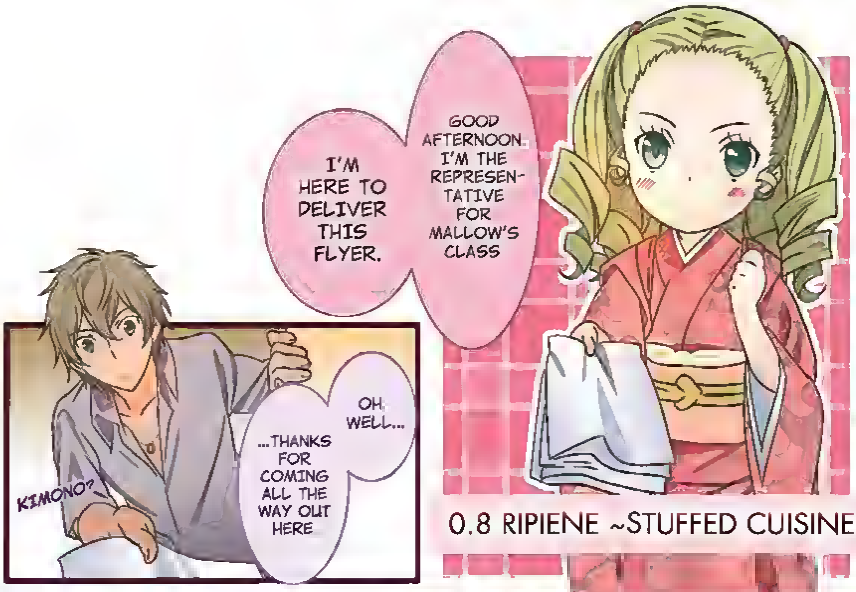
CAN YOU STOP GIVING AWAY OUR AMARETTI TO THE CUSTOMERS?
I SAW YOU.
みてこ
...OKAY.
...WELL, SHE'S GREAT FROM THE NECK DOWN, AT LEAST

...IS IT OKAY FOR YOU TO BE HERE AT THIS HOUR?
WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL?
PUSH
PUSH
DRAG
DRAG
YOU'RE MALLOW, RIGHT?
CLATTER CLATTER
ARE YOU THE MANAGER'S SON?
DRAG DRAG DRAG
I WORKED WITH YOUR OLD MAN IN ITALY, YOU KNOW
HE ALWAYS BRAGGED ABOUT YOU.
HE SAID YOU'VE HAD A KNACK FOR COOKING SINCE YOU WERE LITTLE.
HE SAID YOU'LL SURPASS HIM ONE DAY--
PWOOF!

THE LITTLE BOY...

...WITH A FRAGILE, BATTERED LITTLE HEART.

YES... IT WAS JUST ABOUT THIS TIME OF YEAR THAT I MET HIM.

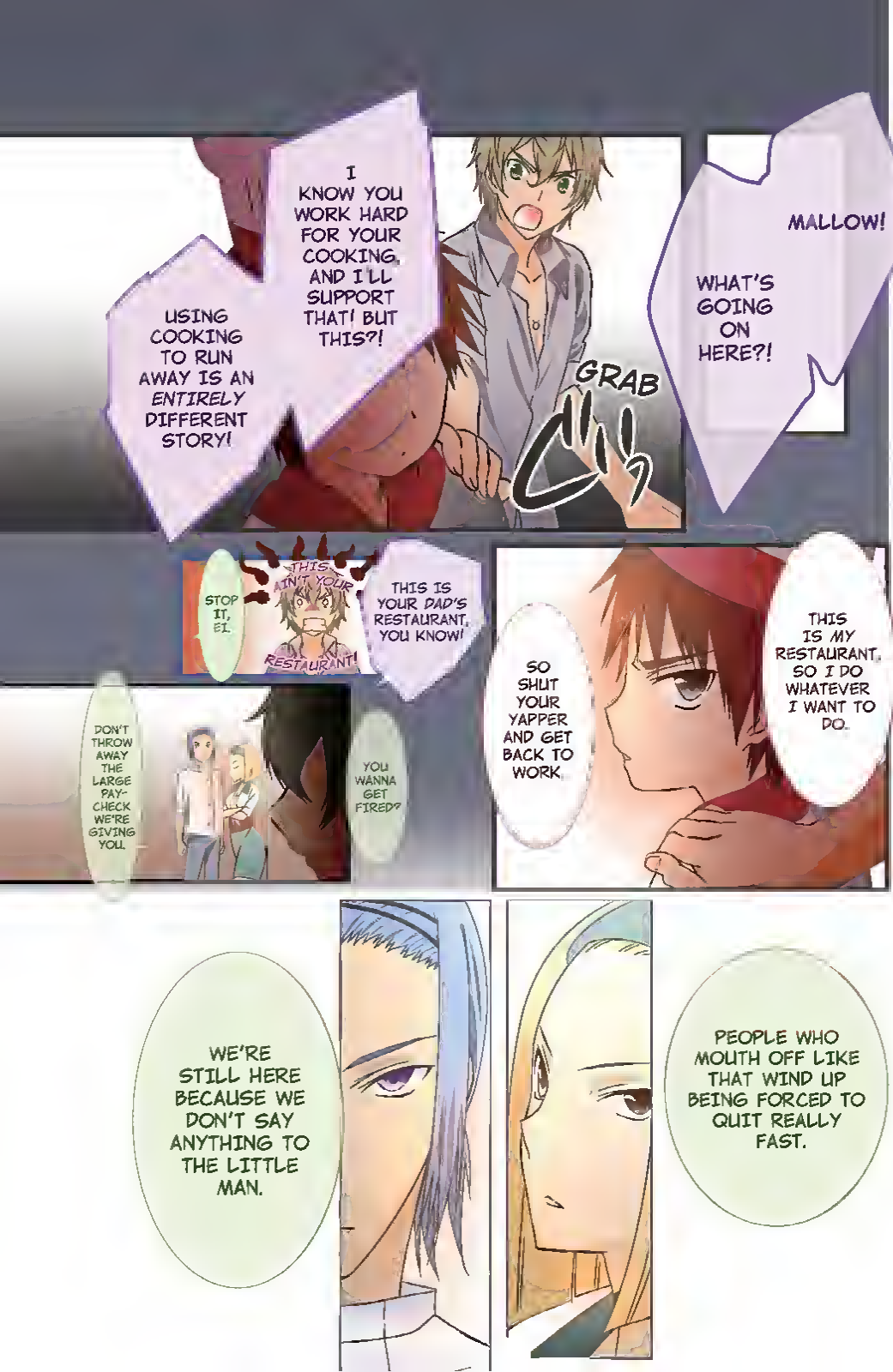

GOOD AFTERNOON. I'M THE REPRESENTATIVE FOR MALLOW'S CLASS
I'M HERE TO DELIVER THIS FLYER.
KIMONO?
...THANKS FOR COMING ALL THE WAY OUT HERE
OH, WELL...

0.8 RIPIENE ~STUFFED CUISINE~

TO KITAHARA-KUN:

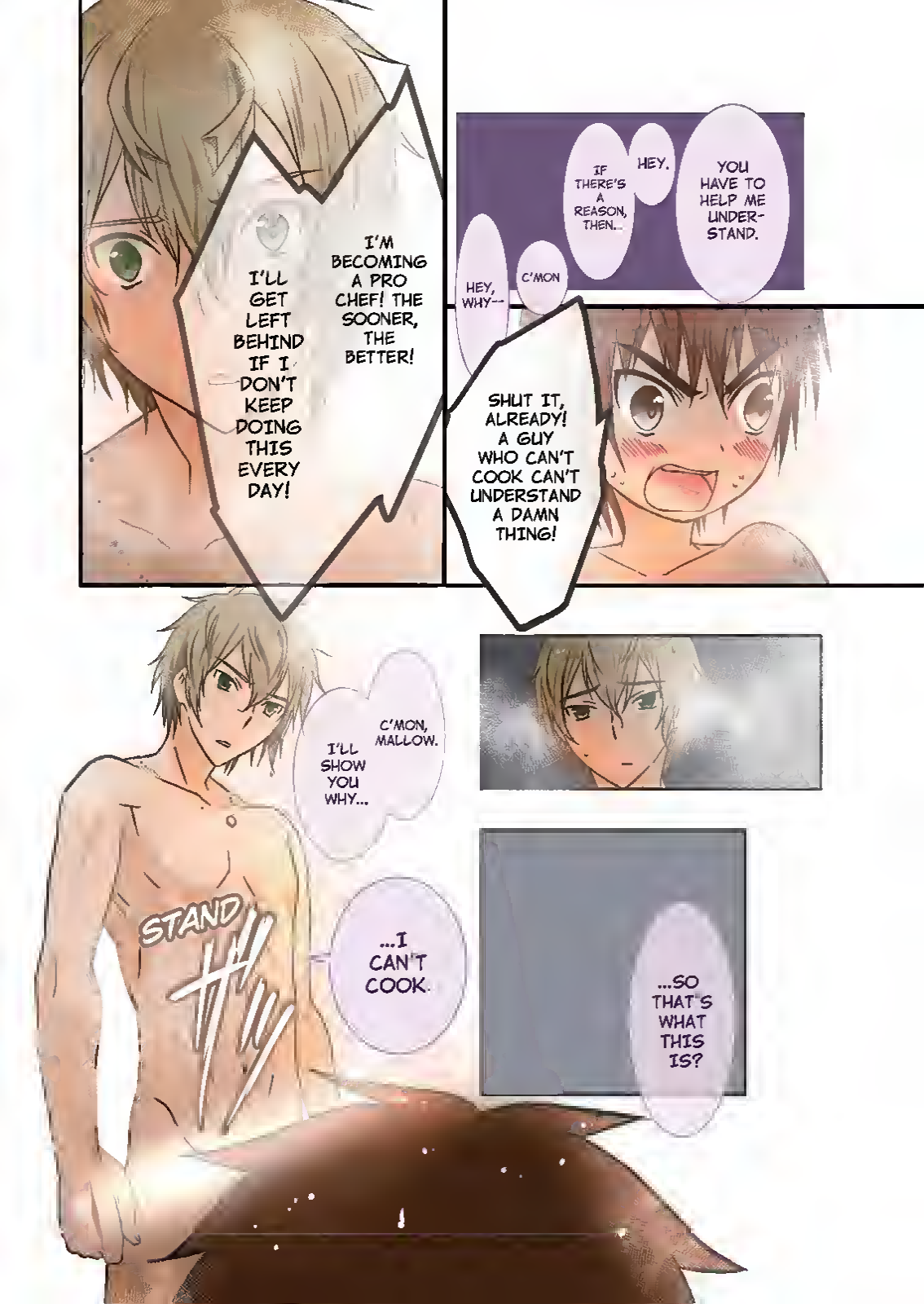
HOW'RE YOU DOING? IT'S YOUR HOMEROOM TEACHER. EVERYONE'S WORRIED ABOUT YOU. I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU WHEN YOU CAN. EVERYONE'S LOOKING FORWARD TO WHEN WE CAN PLAY TOGETHER-

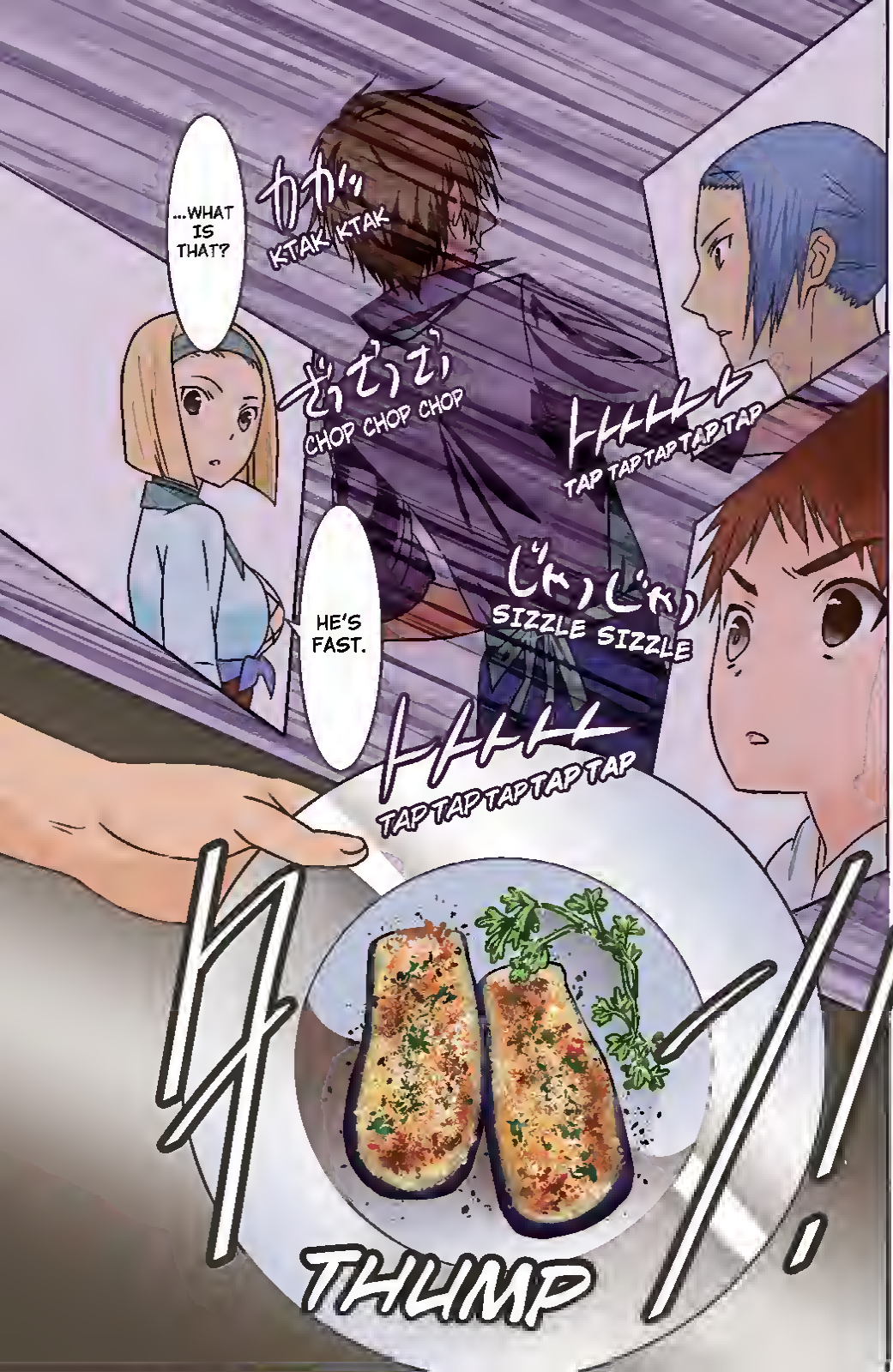
...WHAT THE HELL'S THIS...?


I KNOW YOU WORK HARD FOR YOUR COOKING, AND I'LL SUPPORT THAT! BUT THIS?!
USING COOKING TO RUN AWAY IS AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT STORY!
GRAB
MALLOW!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!
STOP IT, EI.
THIS AIN'T YOUR RESTAURANT!
THIS IS YOUR DAD'S RESTAURANT, YOU KNOW!
THIS IS MY RESTAURANT, SO I DO WHATEVER I WANT TO DO.
SO SHUT YOUR YAPPER AND GET BACK TO WORK.
DON'T THROW AWAY THE LARGE PAY-CHECK WE'RE GIVING YOU.
YOU WANNA GET FIRED?
WE'RE STILL HERE BECAUSE WE DON'T SAY ANYTHING TO THE LITTLE MAN.
PEOPLE WHO MOUTH OFF LIKE THAT WIND UP BEING FORCED TO QUIT REALLY FAST.

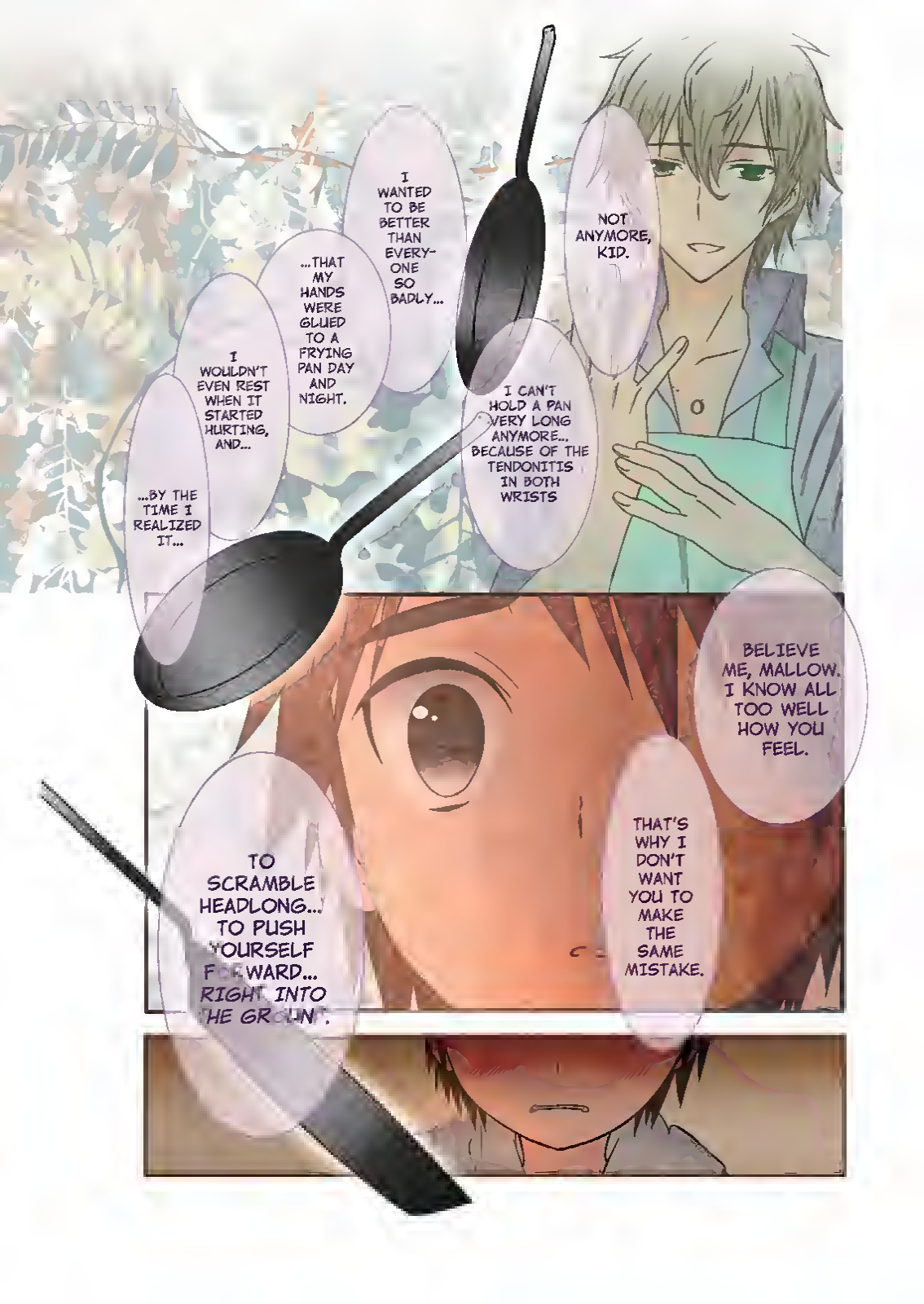
...THIS IS JUST BAD.
DAMMIT, KITAHARA-SAN! ANSWER!
ほかす
FLING
THE NUMBER YOU HAVE DIALED IS OUT OF SERVICE—
NO ONE DARES TO TRY TO MAKE THIS RIGHT.
HE WON'T LISTEN TO A WORD ANYONE SAYS.
I CAN'T LEAVE MALLOW ALONE LIKE THIS!
I CAN'T JUST KEEP QUIET ABOUT THIS!
CAN I ENTRUST YOU WITH MY RESTAURANT...
...AND MY PRECIOUS SON?

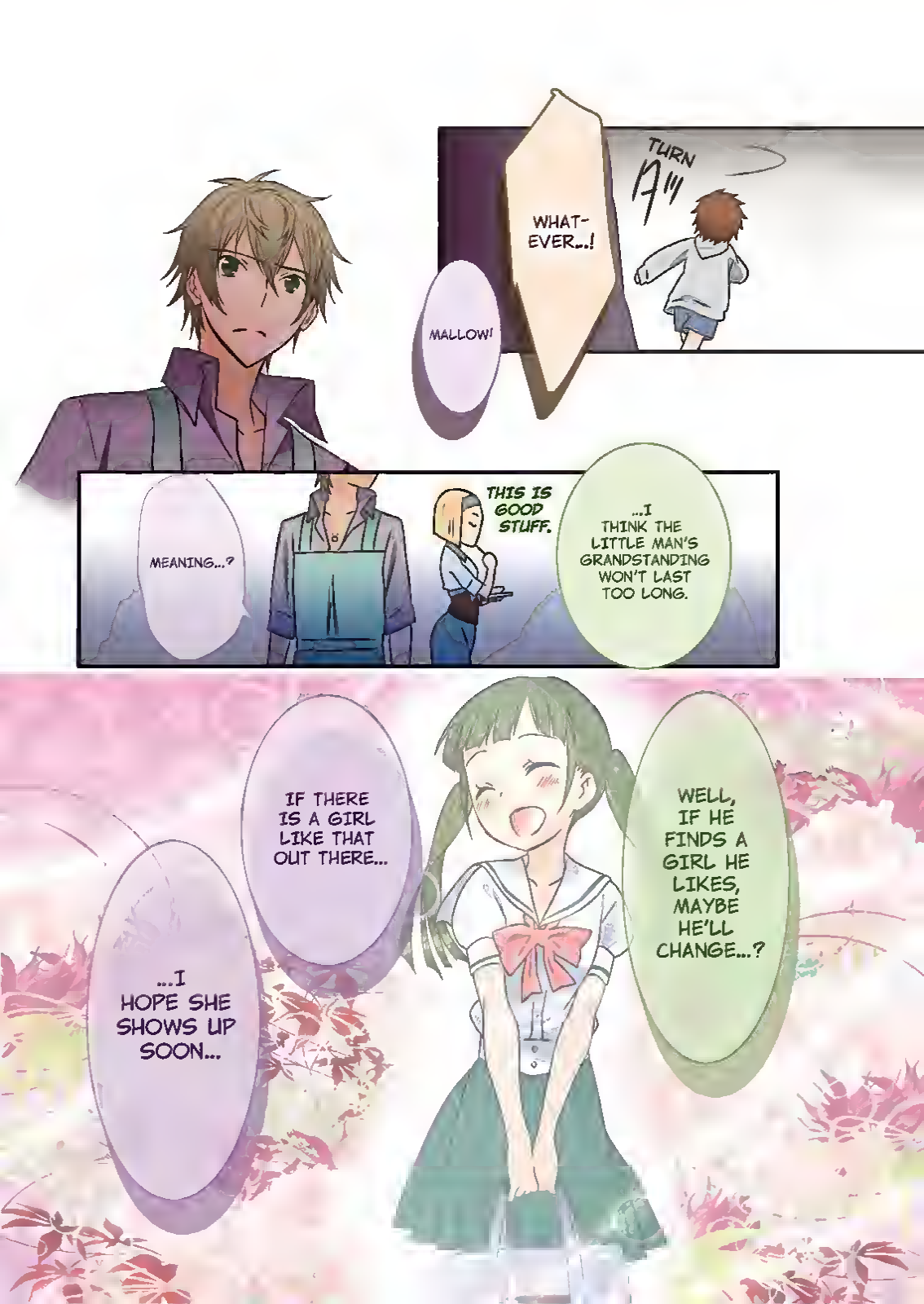
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?! LET GO OF ME!
NUDE BATHING IS WHAT MALE BONDING'S ALL ABOUT!
STRIP, ALREADY!
.....!
.....!
PFAH HAH HAH! THAT'S SO TINY!
STO--
WHA--
H-HEY!
DRIP...
...
SERIOUSLY, MALLOW, WHY AREN'T YOU GOING TO SCHOOL?
DO YOU NOT LIKE STUDYING?

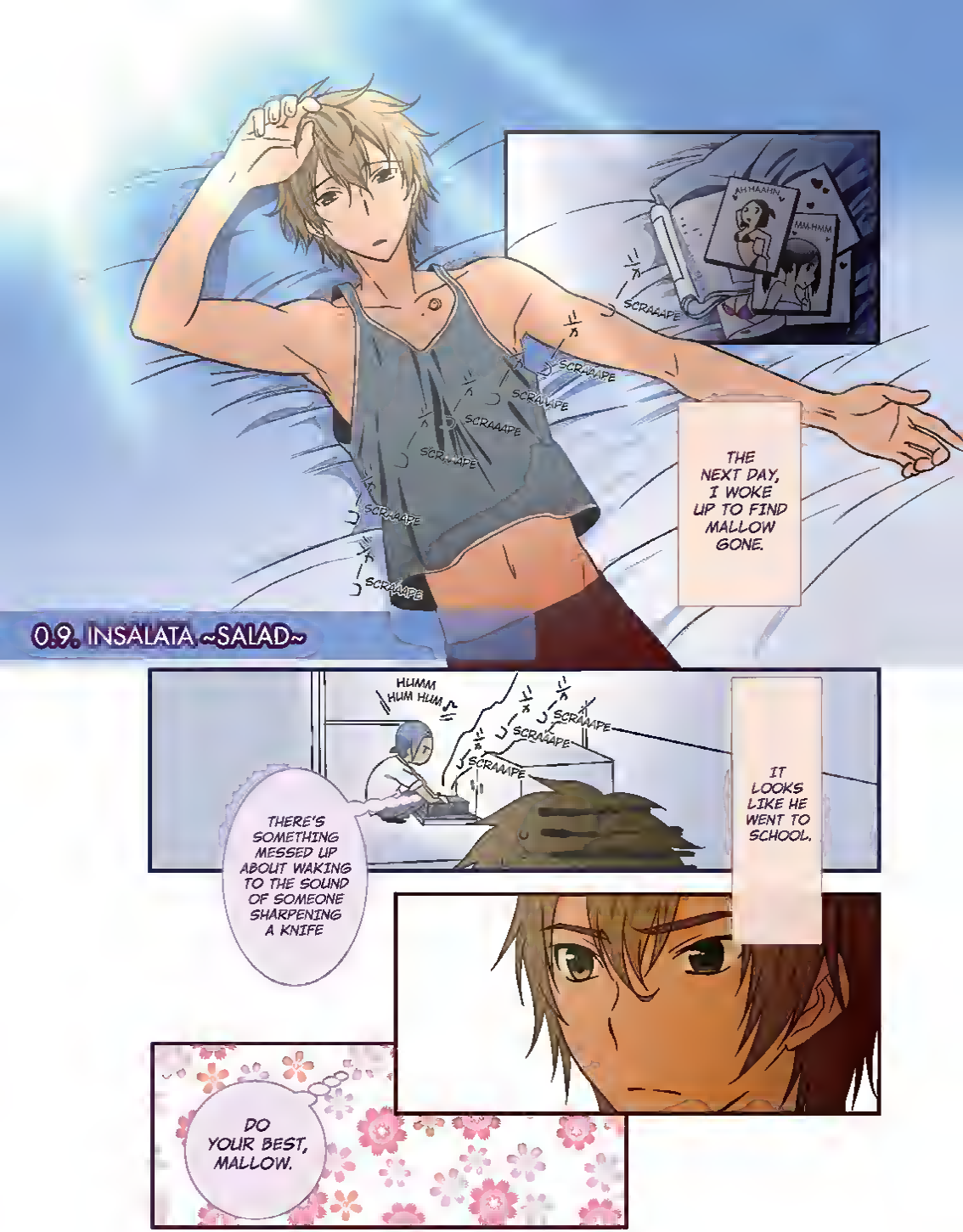

I'M BECOMING A PRO CHEF! THE SOONER, THE BETTER!
I'LL GET LEFT BEHIND IF I DON'T KEEP DOING THIS EVERY DAY!
HEY.
YOU HAVE TO HELP ME UNDER-STAND.
IF THERE'S A REASON, THEN...
C'MON
HEY, WHY--
SHUT IT, ALREADY! A GUY WHO CAN'T COOK CAN'T UNDERSTAND A DAMN THING!
C'MON, MALLOW.
I'LL SHOW YOU WHY...
...I CAN'T COOK.
...SO THAT'S WHAT THIS IS?
STAND

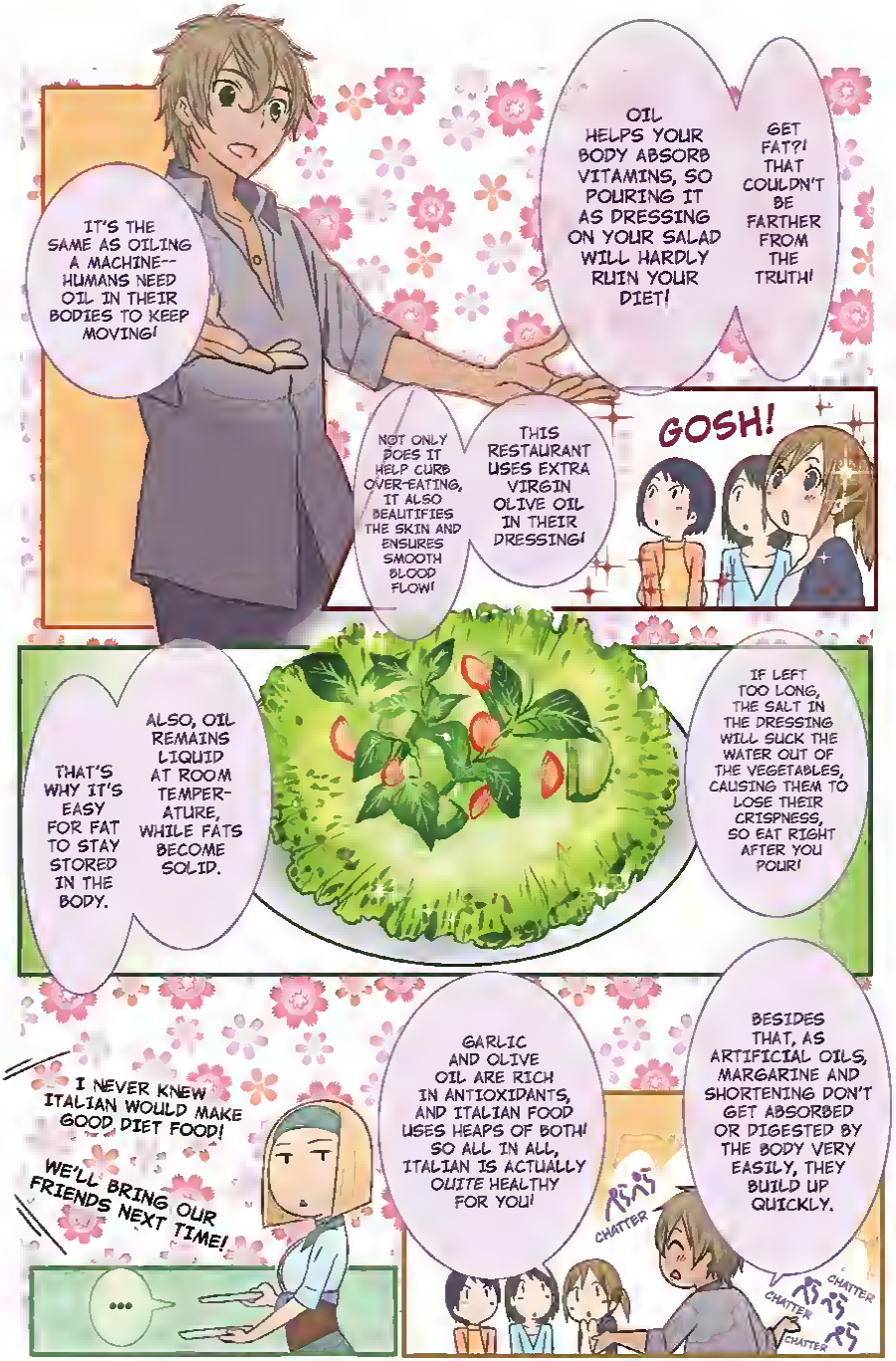

...WHAT IS THAT?
カカッ
KTAK KTAK
とととと
CHOP CHOP CHOP
トトトトト
TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP
じゃじゃ
SIZZLE SIZZLE
HE'S FAST.
トトトトト
TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP
THUMP

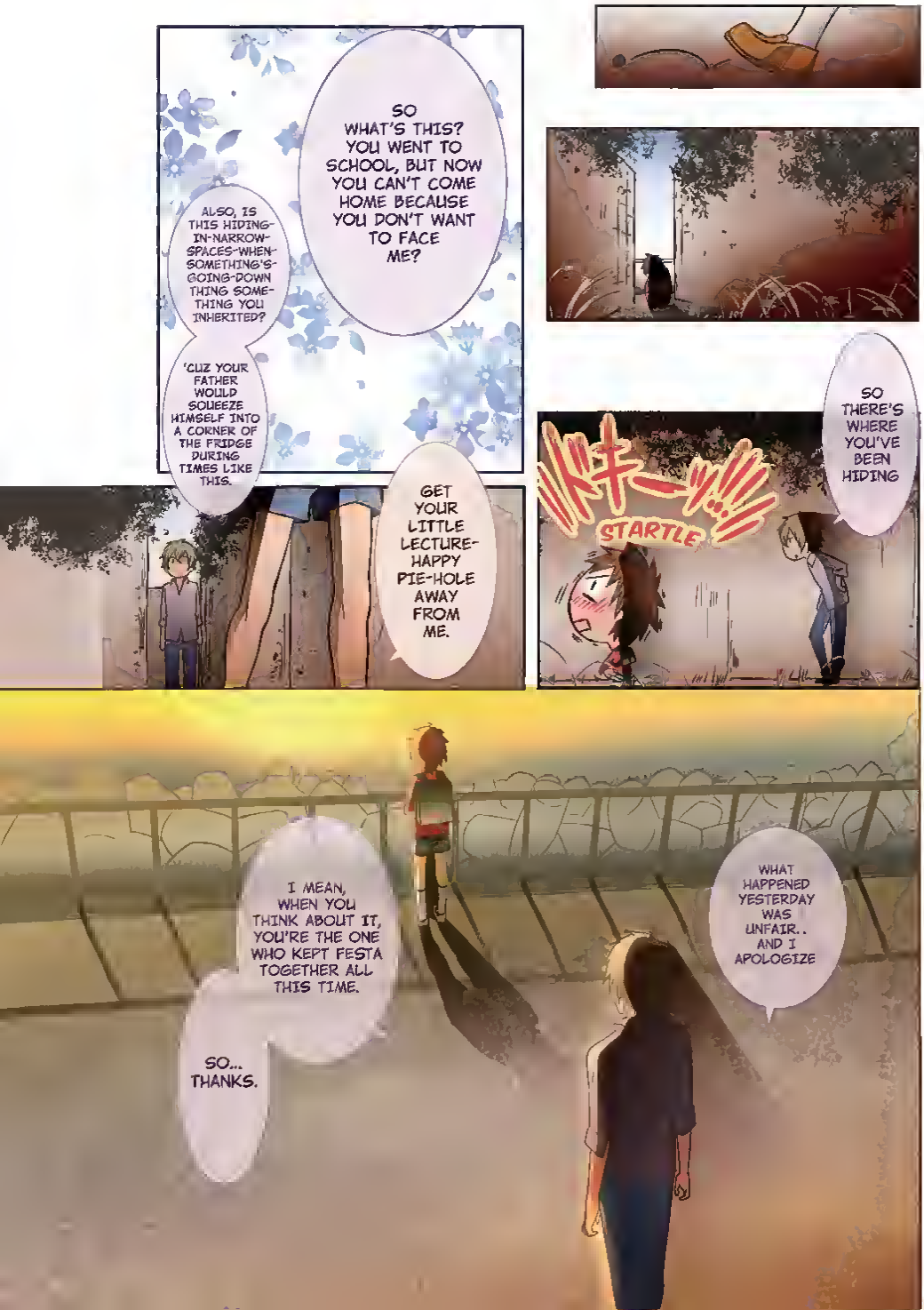
...AUTUMN EGGPLANT RIPIENE.
I REMEMBER YOUR FATHER'S RIPIENE BEING ONE OF THE FINEST OUT THERE.
DID YOU KNOW THAT, MALLOW?
..WHAT...
WHAT THE HELL?! YOU CAN COOK AFTER ALL?
WHY WOULD YOU LIE ABOUT THAT?!
ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE FUN OF--

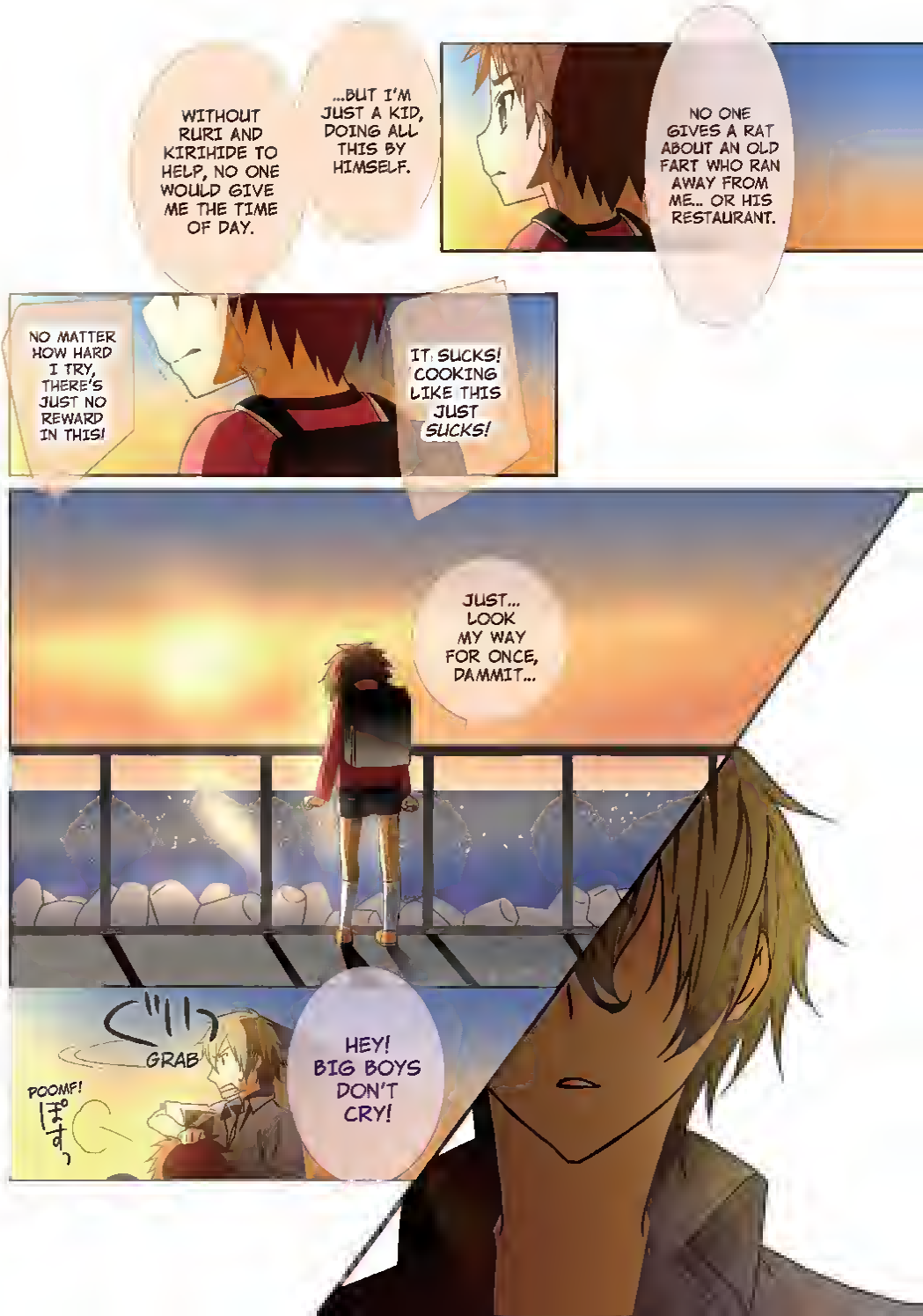

NOT ANYMORE, KID.
I CAN'T HOLD A PAN VERY LONG ANYMORE... BECAUSE OF THE TENDONITIS IN BOTH WRISTS
I WANTED TO BE BETTER THAN EVERY-ONE SO BADLY...
...THAT MY HANDS WERE GLUED TO A FRYING PAN DAY AND NIGHT.
I WOULDN'T EVEN REST WHEN IT STARTED HURTING, AND...
...BY THE TIME I REALIZED IT...
BELIEVE ME, MALLOW. I KNOW ALL TOO WELL HOW YOU FEEL.
THAT'S WHY I DON'T WANT YOU TO MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE.
TO SCRAMBLE HEADLONG... TO PUSH YOURSELF FORWARD... RIGHT INTO THE GROUND.

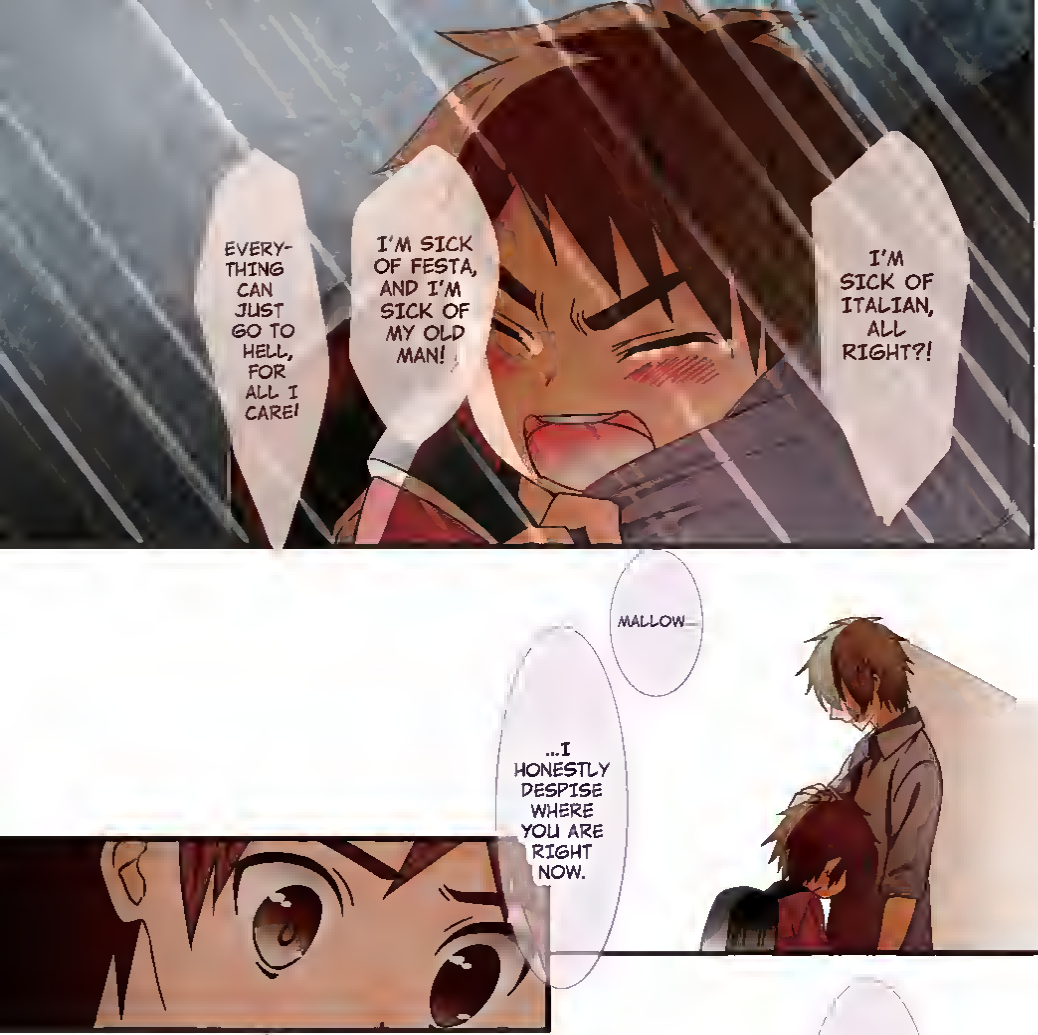

TURN
WHAT-EVER...!
MALLOW!
MEANING...?
THIS IS GOOD STUFF.
...I THINK THE LITTLE MAN'S GRANDSTANDING WON'T LAST TOO LONG.
WELL, IF HE FINDS A GIRL HE LIKES, MAYBE HE'LL CHANGE...?
IF THERE IS A GIRL LIKE THAT OUT THERE...
...I HOPE SHE SHOWS UP SOON...

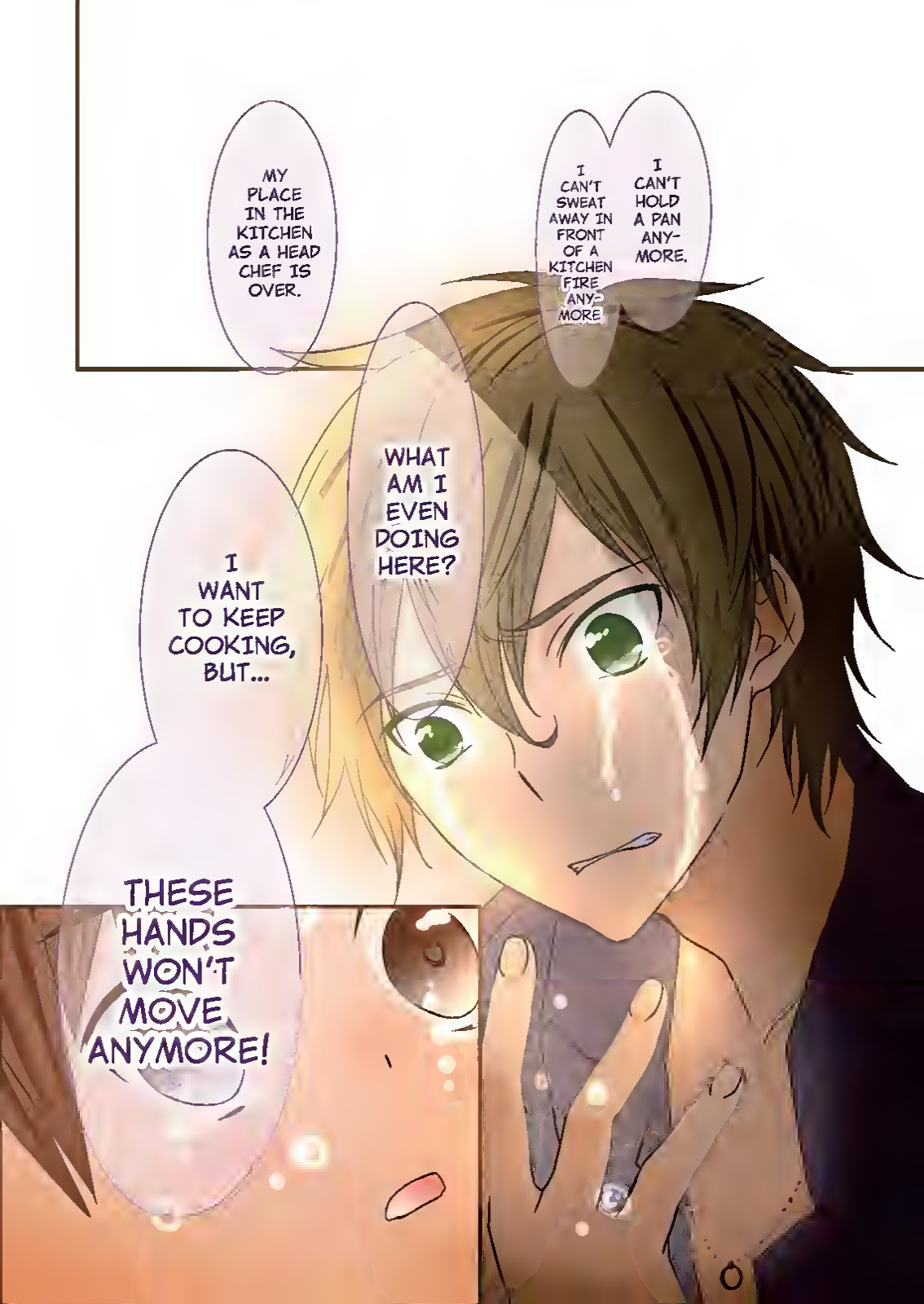

AH HAAHN
MM-HMM
SCRAAAPE
SCRAAAPE
SCRAAAPE
SCRAAAPE
SCRAAAPE
SCRAAAPE
THE NEXT DAY, I WOKE UP TO FIND MALLOW GONE.
0.9. INSALATA ~SALAD~
HUMM HUM HUM
SCRAAAPE
SCRAAAPE
SCRAAAPE
THERE'S SOMETHING MESSED UP ABOUT WAKING TO THE SOUND OF SOMEONE SHARPENING A KNIFE
IT LOOKS LIKE HE WENT TO SCHOOL.
DO YOUR BEST, MALLOW.

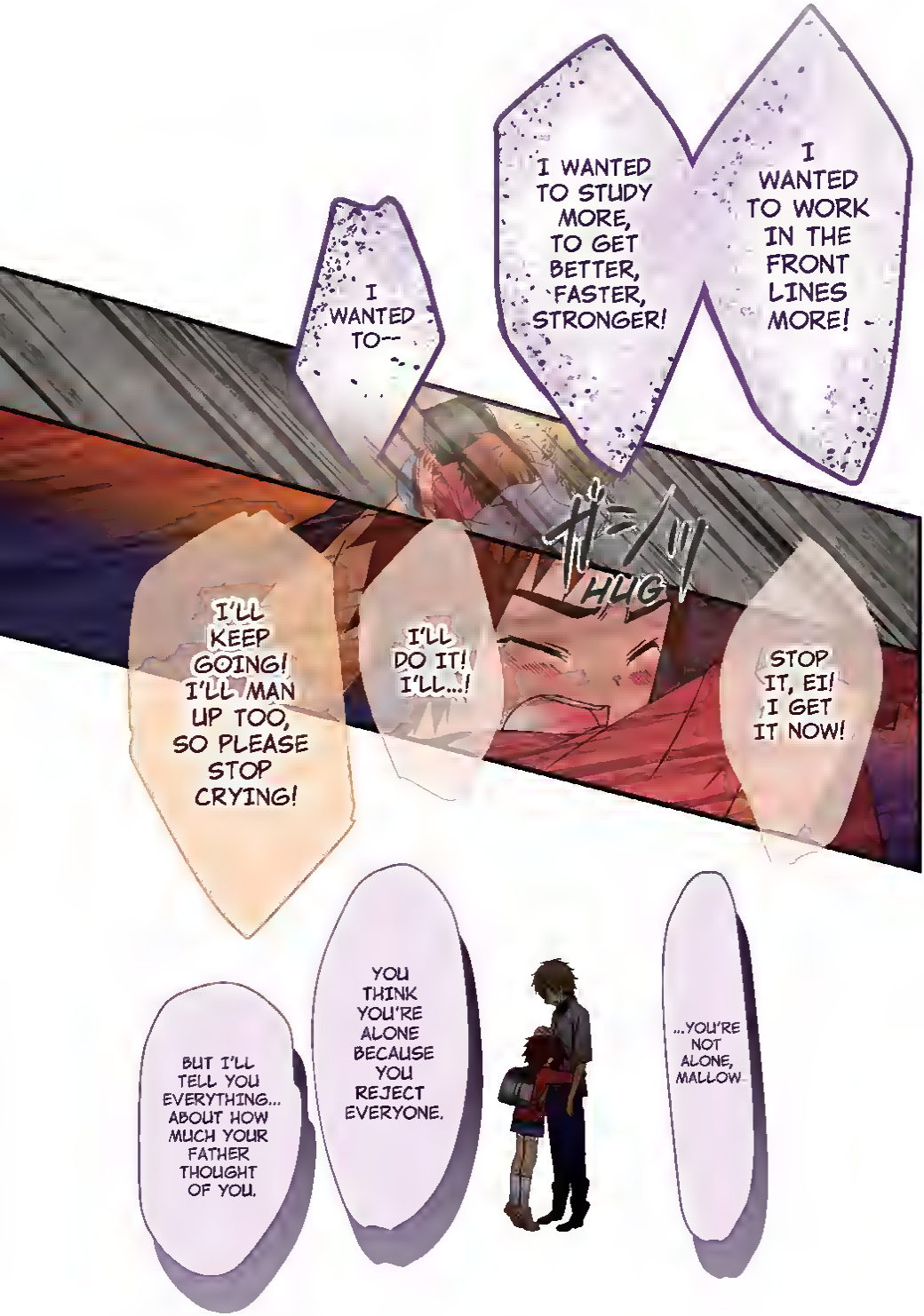

IT'S THE SAME AS OILING A MACHINE-- HUMANS NEED OIL IN THEIR BODIES TO KEEP MOVING!
OIL HELPS YOUR BODY ABSORB VITAMINS, SO POURING IT AS DRESSING ON YOUR SALAD WILL HARDLY RUIN YOUR DIET!
GET FAT?! THAT COULDN'T BE FARTHER FROM THE TRUTH!
NOT ONLY DOES IT HELP CURB OVER-EATING, IT ALSO BEAUTIFIES THE SKIN AND ENSURES SMOOTH BLOOD FLOW!
THIS RESTAURANT USES EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL IN THEIR DRESSING!
GOSH!
THAT'S WHY IT'S EASY FOR FAT TO STAY STORED IN THE BODY.
ALSO, OIL REMAINS LIQUID AT ROOM TEMPER-ATURE, WHILE FATS BECOME SOLID.
IF LEFT TOO LONG, THE SALT IN THE DRESSING WILL SUCK THE WATER OUT OF THE VEGETABLES, CAUSING THEM TO LOSE THEIR CRISPNESS, SO EAT RIGHT AFTER YOU POUR!
I NEVER KNEW ITALIAN WOULD MAKE GOOD DIET FOOD!
WE'LL BRING OUR FRIENDS NEXT TIME!
...
GARLIC AND OLIVE OIL ARE RICH IN ANTIOXIDANTS, AND ITALIAN FOOD USES HEAPS OF BOTH! SO ALL IN ALL, ITALIAN IS ACTUALLY QUITE HEALTHY FOR YOU!
BESIDES THAT, AS ARTIFICIAL OILS, MARGARINE AND SHORTENING DON'T GET ABSORBED OR DIGESTED BY THE BODY VERY EASILY, THEY BUILD UP QUICKLY.
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER

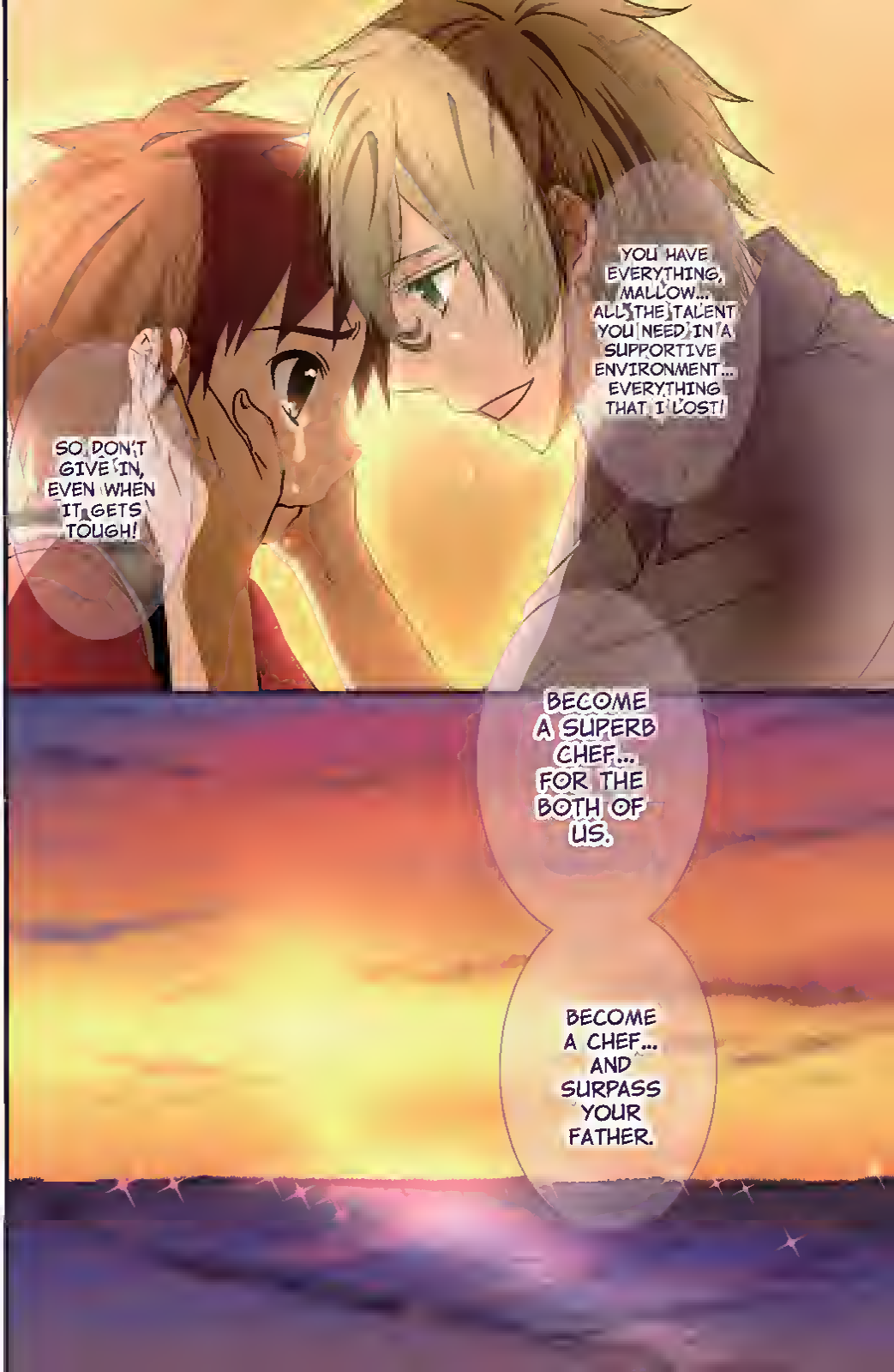

SO WHAT'S THIS? YOU WENT TO SCHOOL, BUT NOW YOU CAN'T COME HOME BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT TO FACE ME?
ALSO, IS THIS HIDING-IN-NARROW-SPACES-WHEN-SOMETHING'S-GOING-DOWN THING SOMETHING YOU INHERITED?
'CUZ YOUR FATHER WOULD SQUEEZE HIMSELF INTO A CORNER OF THE FRIDGE DURING TIMES LIKE THIS.
GET YOUR LITTLE LECTURE-HAPPY PIE-HOLE AWAY FROM ME.
SO THERE'S WHERE YOU'VE BEEN HIDING
STARTLE
WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY WAS UNFAIR.. AND I APOLOGIZE
I MEAN, WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO KEPT FESTA TOGETHER ALL THIS TIME.
SO... THANKS.


WITHOUT RURI AND KIRIHIDE TO HELP, NO ONE WOULD GIVE ME THE TIME OF DAY.
...BUT I'M JUST A KID, DOING ALL THIS BY HIMSELF.
NO ONE GIVES A RAT ABOUT AN OLD FART WHO RAN AWAY FROM ME... OR HIS RESTAURANT.
NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY, THERE'S JUST NO REWARD IN THIS!
IT SUCKS! COOKING LIKE THIS JUST SUCKS!
JUST... LOOK MY WAY FOR ONCE, DAMMIT...
GRAB
POOMF!
ぽすっ
HEY! BIG BOYS DON'T CRY!


I'M SICK OF ITALIAN, ALL RIGHT?!
I'M SICK OF FESTA, AND I'M SICK OF MY OLD MAN!
EVERY-THING CAN JUST GO TO HELL, FOR ALL I CARE!
MALLOW...
...I HONESTLY DESPISE WHERE YOU ARE RIGHT NOW.
I ADMIRED YOUR FATHER'S ITALIAN COOKING SO MUCH, YOU KNOW...
I TOLD MYSELF THAT AS A FELLOW CHEF FROM JAPAN, I'D SURPASS HIM ONE DAY...
BUT... I RUINED MY WRISTS... SO I HAD TO RETURN TO JAPAN...
AND I THOUGHT TO MYSELF SO MANY TIMES, "THIS HAS TO BE A DREAM..."


I CAN'T HOLD A PAN ANY-MORE.
I CAN'T SWEAT AWAY IN FRONT OF A KITCHEN FIRE ANY-MORE
MY PLACE IN THE KITCHEN AS A HEAD CHEF IS OVER.
WHAT AM I EVEN DOING HERE?
I WANT TO KEEP COOKING, BUT...
THESE HANDS WON'T MOVE ANYMORE!

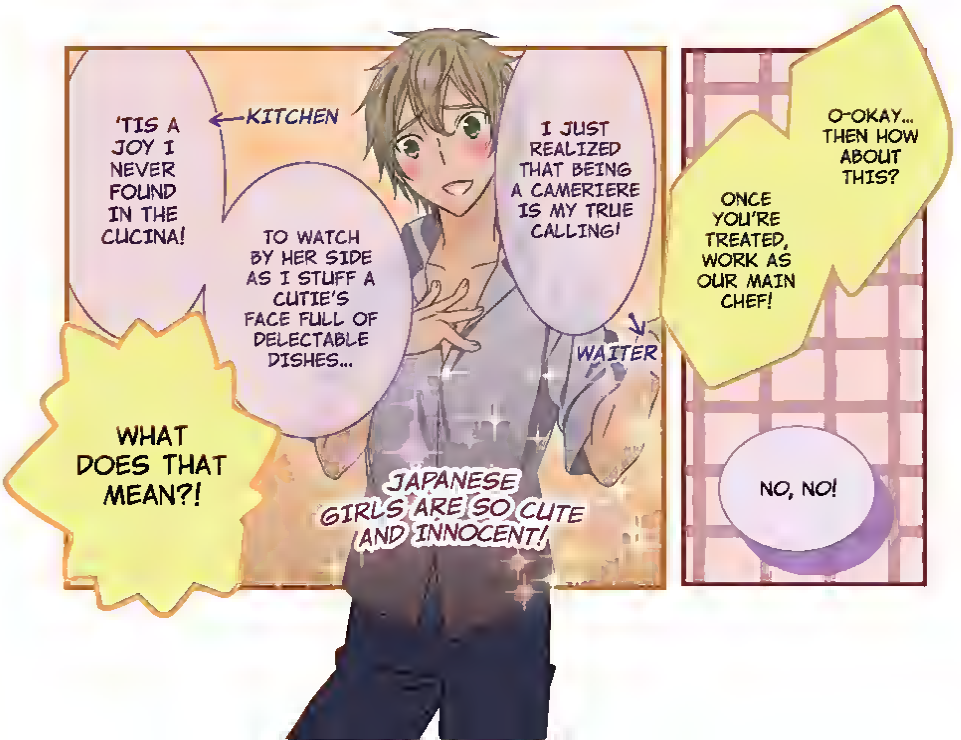

I WANTED TO--
I WANTED TO STUDY MORE, TO GET BETTER, FASTER, STRONGER!
I WANTED TO WORK IN THE FRONT LINES MORE!
I'LL KEEP GOING! I'LL MAN UP TOO, SO PLEASE STOP CRYING!
I'LL DO IT! I'LL...!
HUG!
STOP IT, EI! I GET IT NOW!
BUT I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING... ABOUT HOW MUCH YOUR FATHER THOUGHT OF YOU.
YOU THINK YOU'RE ALONE BECAUSE YOU REJECT EVERYONE.
...YOU'RE NOT ALONE, MALLOW


YOU HAVE EVERYTHING, MALLOW... ALL THE TALENT YOU NEED IN A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT... EVERYTHING THAT I LOST!
SO DON'T GIVE IN, EVEN WHEN IT GETS TOUGH!
BECOME A SUPERB CHEF... FOR THE BOTH OF US.
BECOME A CHEF... AND SURPASS YOUR FATHER.

CURIOSITY GOT THE BETTER OF HER, SO SHE LOOKED SOME THINGS UP
WELL, SUCCESS VARIES FROM PERSON TO PERSON...
...AND YOU'LL NEED THE TIME AND THE PERSISTENCE TO SEE IT THROUGH
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE TENDONITIS CAN BE IMPROVED WITH SOME SURGERY AND MEDICAL INJECTIONS.
TREAT-MENT?
LET'S DO THIS, EI! LET'S DO THIS NOW!
THEN YOU CAN BE A CHEF AT A HUGE RESTAURANT AND COOK ALL YOU WANT!
GRAB

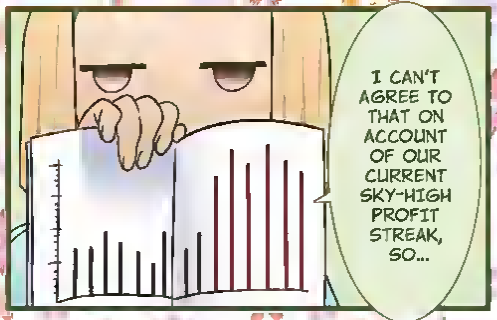
...OR WILL MALLOW OUTGROW THE HELP HE NEEDS FIRST...?

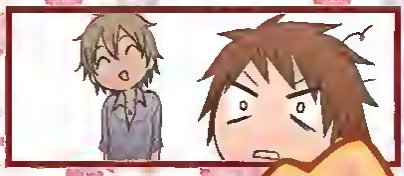
WILL HIS FATHER COME HOME FIRST...?


'TIS A JOY I NEVER FOUND IN THE CUCINA!
KITCHEN
TO WATCH BY HER SIDE AS I STUFF A CUTIE'S FACE FULL OF DELECTABLE DISHES...
I JUST REALIZED THAT BEING A CAMERIERE IS MY TRUE CALLING!
WAITER
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?!
JAPANESE GIRLS ARE SO CUTE AND INNOCENT!
O-OKAY... THEN HOW ABOUT THIS?
ONCE YOU'RE TREATED, WORK AS OUR MAIN CHEF!
NO, NO!

...THAT FATED ENCOUNTER ALSO HAPPENED IN A SEASON MUCH LIKE NOW.

AND I HAVE STAYED ON SINCE THEN, THROUGH MANY SEASONS...





AND I WILL REMAIN, UNTIL THE SEASON OF FAREWELLS ARRIVES.

SARA
TEIRI

SHARATIERRI

A THICK PASTA
WITH A SMOOTH TEXTURE,
SIMILAR TO UDON.
A SPECIALTY OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF AMALFI.

EI
OREKI

ORECCHIETTE

AN EAR-SHAPED
TYPE OF FRESH PASTA.
A SPECIALTY OF APULIA.
FORMED BY PRESSING
BETWEEN TWO FINGERS.